



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

TOWN MAYOR'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERS 2017

Presentations were made by the Mayor of Godalming, Councillor David Hunter, for this year's recipients of the annual Mayor's Award for Volunteers 2017 at Godalming's Annual Town Meeting held last night (20 April 2017) in the Council Chamber in Godalming.

The Volunteers' Award is given to recognise service to the community; the four recipients of this year's awards were all nominated for their outstanding contribution to the community of Godalming.

The recipients were Mr Andrew Fergusson for his support with town events; Mrs Cath Lovell for her extensive support of local organisations; Mr Ray Pont for his committed support and involvement in the Godalming Band and Mrs Alison Sargeant for her dedicated support, through girlguiding, of girls and young women. All were presented with their framed certificates and small token of gratitude for their hard work and dedication by the Mayor of Godalming, Councillor David Hunter.

Speaking recently, Councillor David Hunter said:

"It is an absolute pleasure to be able to highlight the good works and community spirit exhibited by tonight's recipients of the Mayors Award for Volunteers."

Ends

In case of query please contact:

Andy Jeffery
Acting Town Clerk
townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk
Release Date: 21 April 2017

Notes for Editors:

Mr Andrew Fergusson

Nominated by Andy Jeffery for his continued support of the town and its events. As an owner of a local business and a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Andrew either volunteered or was volunteered to join the December Group, who at the time was the organisation responsible for the Christmas lights and switch-on. This started a nearly 20-year relationship supporting Godalming Town Council run safe community events. One of the more memorable of which was the Olympic torch Relay as it came through the town. As one of the four section leaders, Andrew found himself faced with thousands of residents taking advantage of the viewing points along Ockford Road and the Inn on the Lake roundabout. Whilst the police stated that they had no powers to shut the roads, Andrew quickly assessed that it was the only safe option and therefore brought Godalming and Milford to a grinding halt, which was by far the right decision. So far there hasn't been any police follow-up. That year was also the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, again Andrew stepped up to the plate; his local knowledge and contacts ensured that thousands of residents enjoyed 4 days of celebrations.

Andrew is always present on the big occasions and with his involvement and contacts through the Round Table and 41 Club has ensured that the roads are safely managed for the annual fireworks and Remembrance Sunday parade. Indeed, in 2015, when we were informed at the last minute that we would not have police support, Andrew swept into action and produced a traffic management plan that saved the day and reassured the police that Godalming could look after itself.

Andrew selflessly gives his time to help others, not just for the big events. He has managed junior football teams, parked cars at cricket club car boot sales, directed traffic at the town carnival, manages the ladies' hockey 1st team as well as the under 18 girls' team who play out of Broadwater Park.

Andrew is a man that Godalming Town Council considers a good friend, who it can always rely on for advice, giving of his time and knowledge with great humour to support the community.

Mrs Cath Lovell

Nominated by Simon Crowther for her dedication and long service to Godalming. Cath, along with her late husband, used to live in Farncombe and during that time became the volunteer appointment secretary at the Chiropody Clinic at the Denningberg Centre, which led to her becoming the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, a post she held for over 20 years. Cath has also served some 17 years as Secretary to the Go Godalming Association and the Godalming Initiative, whilst also being Secretary of the Parochial Church Council at St John's Church, Milford. Her reputation was such that she was 'head hunted' to become the Secretary to the Milford & Villages Day Centre (now the Clockhouse). Her many contributions were so great that she was invited to become a Trustee.

Cath was invited to join the Godalming Woolsack Rotary Club and soon became the Club's Secretary and then its President in 2015. She was also awarded Rotary's highest honour of a Paul Harris Fellowship.

The words volunteering and dependability are inter-linked into Cath's DNA – she is utterly reliable and helpful to everyone who has the good fortune to meet her. Throughout her life she has always been a determined volunteer – a person who has shown a dramatic willingness to help – she is a “can do, will do” person.

Having recently retired as Secretary to the Go Godalming Association, her wise, energetic, considerate and common sense approach, which has been of inestimable value, will be greatly missed.

Cath, a Yorkshire lass who doesn't take fools gladly, is a kind, warm, approachable, interested, friendly person who has a long history of volunteering and dedication to making a difference to people's lives and the local community.

Ray Pont

Nominated by Michael Goodridge for his dedication to the Godalming Band. Ray's enthusiasm and leadership of the Godalming Band has allowed it to progress and flourish and he will have been its Chairman for 20 years this year. The Band performs regularly in Godalming and Farncombe and has a Youth Band, which also performs. The Band has an excellent reputation both locally and further afield, when it takes part in band competitions. Ray has dedicated a large part of his life to the Band, not only as Chairman, but also as an active playing member.

Alison Sargeant

Nominated by Sarah Ings for her involvement in Girlguiding, the Godalming Band and Godalming United Church. Alison's hard work and amazing commitment to girls and young women in Godalming and the wider area and the longevity of that commitment.

Alison joined Girlguiding as an adult volunteer an astonishing 37 years ago and has served continuously since that time.

Alison moved to Godalming in 1987 and started supporting 1st Godalming Brownies then. In 1998 Alison became leader of 4th Godalming Brownies a role in which she continues to this day. Along the way she has been District Commissioner for Godalming, Division Commissioner for Haslemere Division (which includes Godalming) and Assistant County Commissioner. In September 2013 Alison became County Commissioner for Surrey South West. It is a huge undertaking to work full-time, continue to run a local Brownie Unit and to lead Girlguiding across the county too and Alison continues to bring energy and enthusiasm to everything. That is say nothing of her skills or persuasion and her ability to talk others into delivering more than they ever thought possible for the benefit of girls and young women in our community.

Alison's passion for organising events has provided the opportunity for girls to attend some amazing activities including a joint tea party with the Scouts on Godalming High street in 1999 to celebrate the millennium; "Wet n Wacky" in 2009 to celebrate the Centenary of Girlguiding which was attended by over 3,000 people from across West Surrey and "Little Gig" a performing arts event for around 1,000 Brownies across Surrey West.

The benefits to the community of Godalming has been generations of girls encouraged to grow in confidence, given challenging and varied experiences and a lot of fun.

As if her commitment to Girlguiding were not enough Alison can often be found in the background supporting another great Godalming institution – the Godalming Band and is a regular Sunday school helper at Godalming United Church.